Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

Technology Plan

2009-2012

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Participants

The following individuals assisted in the development of this technology plan. The input they provided has been very valuable in helping to set a direction for the incorporation of technology in instructional programs, support service delivery, and administrative functions at VSDB-S. Without the ideas, comments, suggestions, and input from staff and other stakeholders, this plan could not have been completed. This plan will be made publicly available on the VSDB-S website (http://www.vsdbs.virginia.gov) for anyone who wishes to review it.

Participant	**Position**
Nancy Armstrong	Superintendent
Lisa Byrd	Business Office
Timothy Cave	Student
Tanya Faidley	Curriculum Coordinator
Feta Fernsler	Virginia Department for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
Marian Hackney	Teacher, Blind Department
Jack Johnson	Principal
Marvin Mahler	Director of Operations
Nate McLamb	Director of Human Resources
Mary Murray	Director of Student Life
Janice Rankin	Business Office Manager
Karen Stinson	Instructional Technology Resource Teacher
Carol Swindell	Assistant Principal
Doug Wright	IT Support

Executive Summary

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind is dedicated to providing our students with the skills necessary to enhance their contributions in an increasingly technologically advanced society. VSDB staff use technology as a tool to improve academic achievement and improve efficiency. This plan is aligned with the Virginia Department of Educational Technology Plan (2009-2015 draft) and supports the school's mission, vision and student achievement goals. The technology plan meets requirements of the Universal Services Telecommunications Act (E-rate).

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind serves children who are deaf or blind from throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. VSDB is a leader in technology use for the deaf and the blind providing devices for equal access of technology for all our students.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind provides parents and students a variety of ways to access student and school information. VSDB uses the off-site web access program PowerSchool. Parents and students are able to access current attendance, grades and school announcements through the secure portal. Parents and students may also contact their teachers through the secure e-mail service.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind is committed to helping our students become computer literate in order to access, evaluate, use and create information using technology. Students must learn how to use technology as a tool to access new information for learning, research, problem solving, transition to work and communicating. We believe that learning using technology rather than learning about technology is essential to a 21st Century student. The objective of using technology should be to tell a better story, make a better presentation, analyze data more efficiently or communicate more effectively.

Telecommunications can connect schools, outside agencies, and individuals together in order to share information, collaborate, share resources and provide additional professional development. These linkages are beneficial to learners and educators. VSDB employs IP devices and video phones to connect to local educational agencies, workshops, centers of higher education and other professionals.

Staff and student communication is enhanced through technology. The use of e-mail and text-messaging devices and services allows communication among staff members. Residential students are able to independently communicate with family and friends who live far away via personal cell phones, video phones and individual e-mail accounts.

This document is a working document. As such it is designed to be flexible, adaptable and changeable. Throughout the implementation of the technology plan, VSDB will use various tools to maintain our direction and check milestones as they are reached.

Our vision to create an educational environment that recognizes the need of the teacher to select technology tools to guide, facilitate and lead student learning through a collaborative, hands-on curriculum and environment is the driving force of the technology plan.

VSDB is committed to:
- Develop in VSDB students the 21st Century technology skills and competencies that will enhance learning and support students to become productive citizens in a technological environment.
- Use technology to enhance both the desire for students to learn, and their ability to discover new information through the proper integration of technology into the curriculum.
- Develop within the VSDB staff the competencies needed to facilitate student instruction.
- Expand student and staff access to information through technology, leading to enhanced opportunities for learning and communicating.
- Use technology to universally enhance communication and the flow of information locally and globally.
- Provide students with a safe and flexible learning environment.
- Expand the use of technology to store, retrieve, manage, and analyze materials and information as a management tool for VSDB programs and activities.

VSDB recognizes:
- Teachers must be willing to continually learn new information. Teacher training must be continuous and on-going.
- Technology must be used in the day-to-day operations of the school to increase efficiency.
- New technologies must be sought out which are appropriate for our staff and student needs.
- The interoperability of hardware and software is imperative to the overall operation of our educational setting.
- Educational technology must be able to respond to the changes of the student, curriculum and advances in technology.
- The ethical use of information and information technology should be practiced on a daily basis.
- Technology users should be skilled in assessing and processing information.
- Technology users should be confident in using technological tools.
- Technology users should be able to communicate locally, nationally and globally.

School Mission Statement

Our mission at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind is to provide educational and residential services that promote: value for each person and their unique abilities, success in meeting each student's academic goals, diversity in instruction to meet the needs of all students and building opportunities that foster expertise in technology and its integration, communication, and achievement for all staff and students and their families.

Technology Mission Statement

Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind is dedicated to provide educational technology which supports student learning, accessibility, 21st Century technology skills and support with a secure, reliable and cost effective infrastructure.

Vision for the Future

VSDB is an educational environment that recognizes the need to select technology tools to guide, facilitate and lead student learning through a collaborative, hands-on curriculum and environment. VSDB is committed to provide teachers and students with the support and tools needed to select and apply educational technologies to meet learning objectives.

Current Status

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind has experienced significant changes in the implementation and management of technology since the 2003-2009 technology plan.

1. The most notable change has occured within the VSDB infrastructure. VSDB does not own or manage the IT infrastructure. This includes computer desktops, laptops servers, Internet, network printers and ports. This greatly impedes our ability to ensure the interoperability of software and assistive technology devices including any network programs or hardware. Often the soaring costs to the Information Technology Partnership (ITP) prohibits the school's ability to procure additional equipment.
2. VSDB has hired a full time IT support person as well as a full time Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT). The IT support person acts as the go-between the school and the ITP, manages out-of-scope software and hardware (which is basically the entire school) as well as other school specific jobs. The ITRT is responsible for providing teacher/student support and training for equipment, software as well as best practices for technology integration.

3. VSDB has developed a comprehensive technology skills check-list for grades K-12. These skills are correlated with the Virginia Technology Standards of Learning as well as the National Educational Society of Technology in Education (NETS).
4. VSDB has developed a comprehensive plan for newly hired teachers who have not meet the State's Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel.
5. VSDB has begun the process of modifying curriculum plans to incorporate technology rather than an after thought to a lesson.
6. VSDB has integrated a new student information system, PowerSchool. The system is being utilized by administrators, teachers, secretaries, health services and behavior staff personnel.
7. VSDB has integrated a new e-IEP system, Clarity.
8. Most classrooms have interactive whiteboards,projectors and document cameras. All teachers have access to student response systems.
9. All classrooms have at least one computer
10. VSDB has implemented on-line State testing (depending upon a student's IEP)
11. VSDB has set-up 2 video phones for student and staff use with plans for more.
12. Automation service for the library is in the implementation process and will be up and running on a limited basis Spring 2010.
13. VSDB has embarked upon a multi-million dollar building and renovation project which includes a state-of-the-art educational facility, media center, dorms and student center. All new classrooms will include interactive SMART boards, projectors, document cameras, surround sound, visual and auditory alert system, closed circuit television, video phones and a least five computers. The media center will have an automation service, video phones and student/staff learning lab with video conferencing. Dorms will include student computer labs and video phones.

Needs Assessment

A needs assessment was conducted through surveys, checklists and meetings. The needs assessment focused upon the curriculum, teacher/staff training, administration, hardware/software, support, Internet bandwidth, and assistive technology. To accomplish the school's vision, several items need to be addressed:

I. Curriculum, Educational Applications and Integration:

1. Implement the comprehensive computer skills checklist scope and sequence from grades K-12.
2. Use word processing, databases, spreadsheets and other forms of digital media and productivity as learning tools across multiple content areas.
3. Use individual software applications to address specific subject areas
4. Integrate technology into the curriculum to support student centered learning.

II. Teacher/Staff Training:

1. Provide on-going staff development, training and support to integrate technology into the classroom.
2. Develop incentives to entice staff to attend training classes and seek out support.

III. Administration:

1. Use PowerSchool to monitor student progress.
2. Use tools of productivity more efficiently
3. Use technology to interpret formal and informal testing.

IV. Hardware/Software:

The current technology infrastructure and hardware is managed, owned and operated by the Virginia Information Technologies Agency's (VITA) Information Technologies Partnership (ITP). It is difficult to ensure the interoperbility of hardware and software due to the policies and restrictions enacted by the ITP.

1. Request the Virginia General Assembly to exempt VSDB from VITA.
    a. In the event the Virginia General Assembly grants exemption status to VSDB, this technology plan will be revised to reflect the management and procurement of our own hardware.
2. Ensure the interoperability of hardware and software within the confines of the ITP in the event VSDB is not granted exemption status.
3. Determine needs and establish procedures for the purchase of out-of-scope equipment.
4. Establish procedures for purchasing appropriate software and related material.
5. Increase RAM on existing computers or refresh existing computers. This is solely at the discretion of the ITP.

V. Support:

1. Provide on-site and ongoing support for the integration, coordination and maintenance of out-of-scope school specific technology.

VI. Internet Bandwidth:

1. As video streaming, distance learning applications, and Internet resources become more prevalent as teaching tools in each classroom, increased Internet bandwidth is becoming necessary. VSDB currently has two DS-3 lines serving the campus; the legacy connection and the ITP connection. The ITP will complete transformation of the network and messenging services and disconnect the legacy line, leaving one DS-3 line. Due to policies established by the ITP, VSDB is able to ask for dispensation from ITP security and pay additional fees in order to

connect school owned devices to provide distance learning. At this time VSDB's entire technology budget is paid to the ITP.

VII. Assistive Technology:

1. Emprint SpotDot embosser (to handle larger paper and color + tactile graphics)
2. Additional site licenses for ViewPlus software to run with Tiger embosser
3. Update Intellikeys
4. Purchase at least two touch screens
5. IEP specific assistive technology devices.
6. Additional up-dated CCTVs
7. Inventory of enough BrailleNotes for all Middle/HS academic students whose main reading medium is braille
8. Funds to upgrade, service, and repair as needed all existing BrailleNotes
9. *Compact Oxford Dictionary for Keysoft*
10. Fix or replace current Victor Vibes
11. Maintain regular upgrades for access software, JAWS and ZoomText
12. Accessible Graphing Calculators
13. Program software upgrades for APH program software
14. Repair or replacement of PIAF (tactile graphic maker)
15. Additional braille display

VIII. Teacher/Staff Training

A needs assessment was completed in 2009. Technology Skills Self-Assessment surveys was sent to teachers. Results indicated more than half of the teachers have a basic understanding of the fundamentals of personal computer operations. Teachers indicated they knew how to start up and shut down a computer correctly, can log on to the computer system, can locate and use a network printer and open an application program. Questions relating to the use of the Internet, 100% of the teachers conveyed they knew how to search web sites and enter web addresses. 63%, of the teachers knew how to type, select, drag, move, cut, copy and paste text. However, when it came to more complicated skills, such as creating a table, columns, using the Draw feature and inserting headers and footers, 66% indicated they do not know how. One hundred percent of the teachers agreed technology increases students' motivation, 28% reported their students use technology to become critical thinkers, 36% stated their students use technology to solve real-life problems and 56% claimed the students use technology to discover concepts and prove relationships. When asked where students access technology the most, 72% reported students use the school's computer labs and 84% reported their students use technology in the classroom. Teachers were also asked to indicate what type of technologies they use with their students. The use of the Internet was reported as the technology used the most, 84%, with students. Other tools with high percentages were; Microsoft Word, 76%, games, 68%, and Microsoft PowerPoint, 56%. Teachers also indicated they use many assistive software technologies such as BrailleNotes, JAWS and Zoomtext. When asked to summarize their own technology use, 96% of the teachers surveyed, stated they use the Internet to find relevant material for their lessons and 80%

use application programs such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. 40% use video streaming in the classroom and only 28% use the guidelines established by the National Teacher Training Institute for video use. Most teachers use technology several times a day and 68% of teachers indicated they often develop learning activities which require students to use technology. Review of lessons plans yielded a low number of teachers planning for technology use in the classroom.

Teachers are provided with several opportunities to participate in technology professional development. The ITRT has set up voluntary classes (Technology Wednesdays) on: MS Word, PowerPoint, Interwrite Learning, SMART Board leveled classes, SMART response, Google documents, PowerTeacher, digital storytelling, BoardMaker, Calendar and E-mail basics. The Training Coordinator works with dorm staff, maintenance staff and housekeeping to provide basic computer skills. A plan is being developed to set up rotating classes for creating and using technology interactively in the classroom but is dependent upon teacher willingness to participate.

Collaboration and Partners

AIM Virginia
- The Virginia Accessible Instructional Materials Center (AIM-VA), part of the Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities at George Mason University, produces and delivers accessible instructional materials for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in Virginia who have students with an IEP indicating a need for alternate formats of printed materials.

Area Universities

Associations:
- American Association of School Administrators
- Virginia Association for the Deaf
- American Printing House for the Blind

Community Colleges

Federal and State Agencies

Gallaudet University

Hartcourt Brace Publishing Company

Local School Divisions

Local Special Education Directors

Project HEAR
- Community College based grant

Rochester Institute for Technology

T/TAC Centers at James Madison University

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and the Information and Technology Partnership (ITP)
- Operation of VSDB's IT infrastructure and procurement of technology is provided through VITA.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies
I. Curriculum, Educational Applications and Integration

Virginia Department of Education Technology Goal(s):

Goal 1*: To Provide a safe, flexible, and effective learning environment for all students.*

    Objective 1.1*: Deliver appropriate and challenging curricula through face-to-face, blended, and virtual learning environments.*

Goal 2*: Engage students in meaningful curricular content through the purposeful and effective use of technology*

    Objective 2.2*: Actualize the ability of technology to individualize learning and provide equitable opportunities for all learners.*

    Objective 2.3*: Facilitate the implementation of high-quality Internet safety programs in schools.*

Goal 3*: Afford students with opportunities to apply technology effectively to gain knowledge, develop skills, and create and distribute artifacts that reflect their understandings.*

    Objective 3.2*: Ensure that students, teachers, and administrators are ICT literate.*

    Objective 3.3*: Implement technology-based formative assessments that produce further growth in content knowledge and skills development.*

VSDB School Objective: Apply and integrate the comprehensive computer skills checklist scope and sequence from grades K-12.							
Strategy	**Resources Needed (Human & Material)**	**Person (s) Responsible**	**Budget Needs**	**Funding Sources**	**Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)**	**Method of evaluation**	**Evaluation Results**
Integrate comprehensive computer skills in teaching and learning.	Checklist, demonstration, training, collaboration with peers and/or mentors	Teacher, Administration	None	None	2010-2012	SOL technology integration in lesson plans, student products, informal assessment such as checklists and observations	

VSDB School Objective: Apply word processing, databases, spreadsheets and other forms of digital media and productivity as learning tools across multiple content areas.

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Integrate the use of productivity tools into lesson plans.	Ongoing teacher training , lesson examples	Teacher, Professional development/ITRT or other designee, administration	None	None	2010-2012	Professional development training documentation, observations, student products	

VSDB School Objective: Integrate individual software applications to address specific subject areas

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Teachers and students will utilize current content specific software to enhance learning, productivity and collaboration.	Ongoing teacher training,demonstration, lesson examples	Teacher, ITRT or other designee, administration	None	None	2010-2012	Software use, Lesson plans, student products	

VSDB School Objective: Integrate technology into the curriculum to support student centered learning

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Use interactive whiteboards, document cameras, digital cameras for interactive learning rather than passive learning.	Ongoing training, observations, modeling, completed pacing guides and lesson plans, additional periphals	Teacher, Administration, ITRT	$2,000	Grant money, flow through money	2010-2012	Observations, completed pacing guides and lesson plans, student products	

Integrate technology best practices into instructional lesson plans and curriculum pacing guides	Curriculum specific training, modeling,	Teacher, Curriculum Coordinator, Administration	None	None	2009-2012	Observations of technology infused lessons and student projects, staff performance reviews	
Use electronic field trips, captioned and audio video streaming to enhance student learning	NTTI and museum websites, training	Teacher, Administration, Curriculum Coordinator, ITRT	None	None	2010-2012	Observations of implementation of NTTI strategies	
Integrate Internet safety into lesson plans and curriculum pacing guides	Specific training	Teacher, Administration, Curriculum Coordinator, ITRT	None	None	2010	Observations, completed lesson plans and curriculum pacing guides	

Goals, Objectives, Strategies
II. Professional Development/Support

Virginia Department of Education Technology Plan Goal(s):

Goal 1: Provide a safe, flexible, and effective learning environment for all students

> *Objective 1.3: Provide high-quality professional development to help educators create, maintain, and work in a variety of learner-centered environments.*

Goal 3*: Afford students with opportunities to apply technology effectively to gain knowledge, develop skills, and create and distribute artifacts that reflect their understandings.*

> *Objective 3.1: Provide and support professional development that increases the capacity of teachers to design and facilitate meaningful learning experiences, thereby encouraging students to create, problem-solve, communicate, collaborate, and use real-world skills by applying technology purposefully.*
>
> *Objective 3.2: Ensure that students, teachers, and administrators are ICT literate.*

Goal 4: Provide *students with access to authentic and appropriate tools to gain knowledge, develop skills, extend capabilities, and create and disseminate artifacts that demonstrate their understandings.*

> *Objective 4.2: Provide technical and pedagogical support to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators can effectively access and use technology tools.*
>
> *Objective 4.3: Identify and disseminate information and resources that assist educators in selecting authentic and appropriate tools for all grade levels and curricular areas.*

VSDB School Objective: VSDB will provide on-going staff development, training and support to the integration and application of technology effectively

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Schedule rotating training as part of the annual calendar	Staff, trainers, presentations, handouts	Technology experts, ITRT	None	None	2009-2012	Number of training sessions offered throughout the year	
Participation of staff in technology training that is geared to skill level, curriculum needs and interest	Training, computer labs, presentations, handouts	Staff, ITRT, Technology experts	None	None	2009-2012	Number of training sessions offered throughout the year, individual performance evaluations	

Provide small, group or one-on-one follow-up sessions to staff	Staff	Teacher or Staff, Administration	None	None	2009-2012	Teacher/staff self evaluation, implementation of the skill learned in the classroom or work area, checklists	

VSDB School Objective:VSDB will develop incentives to entice staff to attend training classes and seek out support.							
Strategy	**Resources Needed (Human & Material)**	**Person (s) Responsible**	**Budget Needs**	**Funding Sources**	**Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)**	**Method of evaluation**	**Evaluation Results**
Survey and/or meet with staff to gather ideas to develop incentives to encourage participation in technology staff development.	Incentives, meetings, surveys, inventories	Teachers, Technology Committee, Human Resource Department, Administration	None	None	2009-2012	Meeting notes and agendas, teacher/staff surveys, interest inventories	

Goals, Objectives, Strategies
III. Administration

Virginia Department of Education Technology Goal(s):

Goal 3: *Afford students with opportunities to apply technology effectively to gain knowledge, develop skills, and create and distribute artifacts that reflect their understandings.*

      Objective 3.2*: Ensure that students, teachers, and administrators are ICT literate.*

Goal 5: *Use technology to support a culture of data-driven decision making that relies upon data to evaluate and improve teaching and learning.*

      Objective 5.2: *Provide support to help teachers disaggregate, interpret, and use data to plan, improve, and differentiate instruction.*

      Objective 5.3: *Promote the use of technology to inform the design and implementation of next generation standardized assessments*

VSDB School Objective: Manipulates and computes technology tools to monitor, record, interpret and plan for student progress.

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Monitors student progress through PowerSchool, EIMS and other technology tools	Staff, technology experts, collaboration with others	PowerSchool administrator or other designee, online training through PowerSource	$1,000 per person depending upon the course	Grant money, flow through money	2010-2012	Use of PowerSchool reports, observations, surveys and checklists	

VSDB School Objective: Uses tools for productivity efficiently to communicate and collaborate.

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Effectively uses e-mail, word processing programs, spreadsheets, and presentation software to share ideas and information with others.	Training, on-line or in person, mentoring	Staff, Administration	$1,000 per person	Grant money, flow through money	2009-2011	Use of tools to increase productivity and efficiency, collaboration, observation	

VSDB School Objective: Manipulates and computes technology to interpret data.							
Strategy	**Resources Needed (Human & Material)**	**Person (s) Responsible**	**Budget Needs**	**Funding Sources**	**Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)**	**Method of evaluation**	**Evaluation Results**
Creates bar graphs, pie charts and other visual tools to display and interpret data.	Staff, software	Administration, ITRT	$500	Grant money, flow through money	2011-2012	Use of software, observation	

Goals, Objectives, Strategies
IV. Hardware/Software

Virginia Department of Education Technology Goal(s):

Goal 1: Provide a safe, flexible, and effective learning environment for all students

Objective 1.2: Provide the technical and human infrastructure necessary to support real, blended, and virtual learning environments.

VSDB School Objective: VSDB will provide students and staff a safe, flexible, accessible, appropriate and up-to-date computer environment.

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Applies strategies such as letter writing and contacting local delegates to request the Virginia General Assembly to exempt VSDB from VITA	Documentation for exemption, collaboration	Administration, Technology Committee, AT Staff, Technology Staff	None	None	2009	Copy of proposal	Completed Dec. 2009
Ensure the interoperability of hardware and software within the confines of the ITP.	VITA	Technology Staff, VITA	None	None	Ongoing	Functionality of hardware and software, number of incidences reported	
Determine needs and establish procedures for the purchase of out-of-scope equipment.	Meetings	Technology Staff, Technology Committee	None	None	2010-2012	Policy	
Establish procedures for purchasing appropriate software and related material	Meetings	Technology Staff, Technology Committee	None	None	2011	Policy	
Increase RAM on existing computers or refresh existing computers.	Money	VITA, Technology Staff	Not available at this time	Unknown	2011-2012	Completion of upgrade	

Goals, Objectives, Strategies
V. Assistive Technology

Virginia Department of Education Technology Goal(s):
Goal 2: Engage students in meaningful curricular content through the purposeful and effective use of technology.
  Objective 2.2: Actualize the ability of technology to individualize learning and provide equitable opportunities for all learners.

VSDB School Objective: Improve access to instructional materials for visually impaired/blind students and students with additional disabilities.

Strategy	Resources Needed (Human & Material)	Person (s) Responsible	Budget Needs	Funding Sources	Time-line (proposed beginning and ending dates)	Method of evaluation	Evaluation Results
Establish access to e-books, web Braille and digital textbooks for students	Web subscriptions	AT Staff, Curriculum Coordinator, AIM VA	$4,000	Grants, Foundation money, NCLB	Beginning 2010 Ongoing	Subscription, digital books	
Seek funding for and install new technology for instructional aides such as CCTVs, BrailleNotes, Victor Vibes, embossers, scanners, Braille Display, Mountbatten brailler, scientific talking graphing calculators, tape players, talking dictionaries	Money	AT Staff	$100,000	Grants, Foundation money, NCLB	Beginning 2010 Ongoing	Purchase and installation of equipment	
Seek funding to maintain service agreements and upgrades for instructional aides	Money	AT Staff	$50,000	Grants, Foundation money, NCLB	2009-2012	Service agreements	
Purchase a touch screen display.	Money	At Staff	$500.00	Grants, Foundation money, NCLB	2010-2011	Purchase and installation of equipment	

Update Intellikeys and other adaptive keyboards.	Money	AT Staff	$6,000	Grants, Foundation money, NCLB	2010-2012	Purchase and installation of equipment	
Establish an AT committee to discuss and plan the AT needs of students.	Representatives from both departments and service providers, regularly scheduled meetings	AT chair	None	None	2010-2012	Scheduled meetings and attendance	
Scheduled time and method for students to learn and practice assistive technology skills	Resource instructor, regularly or scheduled training,	AT Staff	None	None	2010-2012	Checklists; observation of application in classroom setting	

Connectivity

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind does not own or manage Internet connectivity. The Virginia Information Technology Agency in partnership with Northrop Grumman owns and operates all Internet connectivity. VSDB currently has two DS-3 lines serving the campus; the legacy connection and the ITP connection. The ITP plans to transform and disconnect the legacy line leaving one DS-3 connection. Internet connection is managed in Chester, Virginia.

All clients use the Windows XP Professional operating system which is the VITA standard.

VITA utilizes several security barriers including a firewall, Internet filtering and an anti-virus service. Due to security policies, VITA is not a liberty to discuss the full scope of security employed on VITA owned hardware. VSDB submits requests for web filtering for specific sites but follows the VITA standards for web filtering.

Computers are readily accessible in each classroom, in computer labs located in the school buildings and in the dormitories. Each computer has Internet connection.

Accountability

Accountability is important in assuring technology goals and objectives are reviewed often, changed if needed and completed. In order to ensure accountability for the technology goals and objectives established by the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, we will:

1. Establish performance evaluations for instructional staff which reflect technology strategies used in the classroom.
2. Require students to use technology to access, evaluate, use and create information.
3. Utlize PowerSchool to its full potential as an efficient means of managing student data.
4. The Technology Committee will meet annually to assess, update and revise the VSDB Technology Plan.
5. Secure Internet service will continue to protect students from exposure to inappropriate materials.
6. Increase ways to communicate with parents, students, staff and other stakeholders.

Educational Technology Funding

Technology changes at the blink of an eye. In order to keep up with emerging technologies, schools must plan for future growth and change. The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind technology planning is dependent upon the policies of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and the Information and Technology Partnership. The entire technology budget of $420,000 is allocated to the ITP. VSDB finds alternate ways to fund additional technologies for staff and students through grants, No Child Left Behind funding and other resources.

Technology Budget:

Maintenance Contract (desktops, 6 laptops, servers, network printers, Internet and network connections)	$420,000
Software Licenses, Material and Supplies	0
New and Replacement Hardware	0